



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95816
Telephone: (916) 324-5801 • Fax: (916) 324-0271

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Ukiah, CA 95482**

June 7, 2019

STAFF REPORT: Law Enforcement / Public Safety

STAFF: Mark Hada, Visitor Services Manager
Steve Schory, Law Enforcement Superintendent II

SUBJECT: OHV Registration in California City and Law Enforcement Update

Summary

OHV Registration in California City

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 38010 and 38020 all off-highway vehicles (OHV) operated on public lands, with few exceptions, are required to be registered/identified through the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Properly registered vehicles will display either a green or red decal (sticker). The green decal indicates the registered vehicle is compliant with California clean air standards and can be operated year-round, while a red decal may have a limited riding season based upon the location of the OHV riding area. California City has an additional requirement enacted through local ordinance (Ord. No. 08-667, September 2, 2008) that requires a permit be purchased for non-street legal vehicles to use the OHV trails and riding areas within the city limits of California City. This permit must also be displayed on the OHV for use within the city limits. California City updated its on-line website information and in-person permit purchasing forms to ensure OHV enthusiasts know that, in addition to the California City permit, a green or red sticker must be present.

Law Enforcement Deployments

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division Law Enforcement Section partners with local county and federal agencies to provide law enforcement, public safety, and educational support on the Rubicon Trail, as well as the Fordyce Creek Trail and surrounding areas. In addition to the support provided to local and federal partners, the Section continues to be active in supporting State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) during periods of peak use, special events, and any other needs that require additional law enforcement staffing.

Law Enforcement and Grant staff completed preliminary grant application review and will continue with final review and the intent to award announcements for all law enforcement grants once all phases of the grant process have completed. Site visits for

grantees of last year's grant cycle continue. These site visits confirm proper use of OHV Trust Fund monies related to law enforcement grants.

The Division's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program, or Drone Program, continues to develop.

Discussion

OHV Registration in California City

On February 28, 2019, the OHMVR Commission toured State and Federal lands to view various OHV riding areas. While on the tour an OHV was seen with a California City OHV permit. No one noticed if there was a green or red sticker present. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement stated that, anecdotally, there seemed to be more OHVs operating without green or red stickers than in previous years, though many had a California City OHV permit.

The inquiry into the California City OHV permit issuing process revealed that there were two primary ways that off-highway vehicle enthusiasts could obtain a permit to access the more than 1,800 miles of OHV riding opportunities within California City's boundaries. They may be purchased in person or ordered on-line.

In-person purchases of permits can be made at the Police Department and Borax Bill Park as well as five commercial business locations. The current permit application implied that you need a green or red sticker or that other unspecified California laws applied to OHV use, but it never said that in addition to the California City permit, a green or red sticker was required by law. To address this issue, the California City OHV Field Supervisor purchased a stamp that indicated a green or red sticker was required, in addition to the California City permit. The existing stock of paper applications were stamped with this information and stamped applications were distributed to all locations where permits could be purchased.

A permit may also be purchased by ordering it on-line from the California City Police Department's website. To purchase a permit, an enthusiast must navigate to a web page that has some general OHV information pertaining to the California City OHV program and designated areas. From that page, a link sends the user to a page about permits and provides a link to purchase permits. Again, although implied, there was no information that stated in addition to the California City permit, a green or red sticker was required for OHV use within the city limits.

After discussion with the California City OHV program administrators, city officials agreed to change the information provided on the website to reflect the need for OHV users to have a green or red sticker in addition to the California City permit. Most of the information was changed on the same day as the discussion and placed in a prominent position on the general OHV information page as well as the permit ordering page.

Law Enforcement Deployments

Onyx Ranch SVRA: OHMVR Division Law Enforcement staff deployed to assist Onyx Ranch SVRA staff on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Onyx Ranch SVRA and Red Rock Canyon State Park, which are now part of the Great Basin District, are geographically close to one another and staff from both parks work in conjunction to provide law enforcement support when needed. During this period, the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve experienced a super-bloom of poppies. This super-bloom forced staff from Red Rock Canyon to provide support for the Poppy Reserve, leaving Red Rock Canyon State Park and Onyx Ranch SVRA understaffed. OHMVR staff supplemented these reduced staffing levels.

Prairie City SVRA: The OHMVR Division Law Enforcement Section recently assisted Prairie City SVRA with the 51th annual Hangtown Motocross Classic event on May 16, 2019. Staff provided additional patrols in the days leading up to the event, as well as during the event.

Rubicon Trail and Fordyce Creek Trail: In 2019, OHMVR Division Law Enforcement staff and staff from various other park units are scheduled to deploy on nine separate occasions between the months of June and October to both the Rubicon Trail and the Fordyce Creek Trail. Teams of two to four officers will assist the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, the Placer County Sheriff's Office, and the El Dorado National Forest with education, law enforcement, calls for service, and search and rescue duties.

Law Enforcement Grant reviews and site visits: Along with staff from the Grants Section, OHMVR Division Law Enforcement staff recently completed preliminary review of law enforcement grant applications for the current grant cycle. After applicants respond to initial comments, the Grants and Law Enforcement staff will review final applications prior to announcing the intent to award.

OHMVR Division Law Enforcement staff continue to conduct site visits of grantees for the 2017/2018 grant cycle. During these site visits, staff meet with each grantee and inspect equipment and safety gear purchased with grant funds, make recommendations on their enforcement programs, and visit patrol areas along with grantees' enforcement officers.

UAS Program: The Division continues to move forward in the development of the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program. This program is not focused on recreational use of UAS, but rather seeks to implement UAS in law enforcement, resource management, and other programs that may benefit from UAS capabilities. The UAS Program is currently developing a program that focuses on safety, training, and proper integration into the National Airspace System. While the program is still in its developmental stages, there have been successful uses on a limited basis at both Ocotillo Wells SVRA and Oceano Dunes SVRA. The OHMVR Division also oversees a UAS training site located at Prairie City SVRA and recently met with staff from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to exchange information and discuss the suitability of the Prairie City training site for OES use.

Standards for OHV Vehicles: The OHMVR Division identified issues with fleet vehicles and specialized vehicles used by OHV park units and sees the need to develop standards for those vehicles. The Division intends to build off the work done by the Vehicle Improvement Program committee formed in Park and Recreation Services Division and will assemble a similar committee to address and enhance vehicle needs of OHV park units. A timeframe for this endeavor has yet to be determined.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None